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ARTIFICIALLY INDUCED SEGMENTATION OF EGGS OF TOAD.

Bataillon (various papers in Comptes Rendu 1911) has produced segmentation of the eggs of the toad without the male cells. The method involves bathing the eggs in blood, and in puncturing the egg with a needle. He holds that the mere puncture will not serve, but that some foreign body must find its way into the wound. Blood of fish or frog or toad; or the sperms, extract of the spleen or testis will serve to stimulate the nuclear action.

HETEROCHROMOSOMES IN PLANTS.

Tahara (Bot. Mag. Tokyo, 1910) has discovered in *Morus indica*, the wild mulberry, a differentiation among the chromosomes comparable to that earlier discovered among animals. During the early prophase stages in nuclei of the sporophyte, and still more noticeably as the chromosomes enter the equatorial plate, two pairs of the chromosomes are larger than the others. In the spore mother cells (X-generation) there are 14 chromosomes (bivalent), one pair of which shows larger than the rest. This paper opens up a most interesting field for the students of plant cytology, considering the important place which the heterochromosome has in the theory of zoology.

A similar phenomenon is reported by Ishikawa (same journal) for *Ginkgo biloba*.

ANOTHER STEP IN THE STUDY OF CELLS IN VITRO.

Lambert and Harns (J. Exp. Med. Nov. 1911) call attention to the advantage of the *in vitro* method in studying the exact effects of specific cyto-toxins as compared with the complex body conditions. They note the following results: (1) Mouse sarcoma, growing vigorously in plasma of normal rats, is unable to grow in plasma immunized by mouse sarcoma injections; (2) rat sarcoma, which is readily cultivated in normal guinea pigs, will not grow in plasma of guinea pigs which have been previously treated with the rat tissue. He believes that the reason for these failures to grow is the presence of cytotoxins which have developed in these alien plasmas.